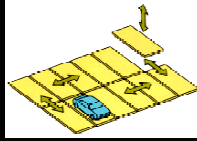


HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION

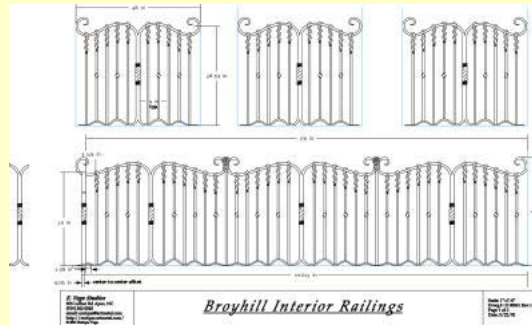


The design of horizontal circulation frequently determines the basic shape and character of the entire structure.

The first practical requirement of any circulation system is that it be adequate in size. [Pennsylvania Station](#) in New York is an excellent example of a spacious, broad and direct circulation. The second requirement in circulation design is that of [directness](#). A good circulation plan should work well in either direction. The third requirement in circulation design is that points of converging [traffic](#) must be expressed. This is especially important in the design of facilities for rapid [exits](#). The fourth requirement in circulation design is that changes in [level](#) must be clearly expressed. The architect can choose among several treatments to express the change in level.



Points of converging traffic



A [railing](#) would express the level change only if the [corridor](#) is empty; but wall and ceiling treatments would prepare a crowd for the steps ahead of time.



Corridor



Railing

Circulations have an aesthetic value as well as a functional one. Above all, circulation should give the impression that they lead to some definite place –in aesthetic terms, a climax–. If one can see ahead some inviting or dynamic visual effect, progress towards it becomes easy and pleasant. The easiest type of progression is in a straight line. The focal point can serve as the sign of directional change in circulation by showing the person that the circulation ends there or that he has to take a change in direction.

The architect has the alternative of making a structure convenient, clear and practical or tortuous, confused and inefficient.

In Le Corbusier's perspective for the [Centrosoyus Building](#) in Moscow, the circulation patterns are vague and signs or direction marks would be necessary to indicate whether one should go. In the [Palais de Justice](#) in Paris, the circulation gives pattern, unity and clarity to the building as a whole by the architects superb handling of the magnificent space through corridors which tie together its great [public](#) rooms.

Circulations, then are necessary elements in establishing the relationship between the parts and the whole, and between the circulation pattern itself and the general sense and form of the entire structure.